

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10: Cancelled

11. (currently amended) An extruder having a transfer region and comprising:

an extruder sleeve that in said transfer region is provided with first ribs, wherein flow channels extend between said ribs, wherein said flow channels are U-shaped, wherein said U-shaped flow channels improve streaming behavior of material in the extruder sleeve; and

an extruder screw disposed in said extruder sleeve and provided with second ribs between which extend flow channels that face said flow channels of said extruder sleeve, wherein said first ribs of said extruder sleeve have a ridge that faces said extruder screw, wherein said ridge has a width that corresponds to at least one third of a width of said flow channels of said extruder sleeve, wherein between ridges of said second ribs of said extruder screw and said ridges of said first ribs of said extruder sleeve a gap is formed that corresponds to greater than 0.5% of a diameter of said extruder screw, and wherein a ~~width~~ thickness of the first ribs of the extruder sleeve is ~~increased~~ approximately to a ~~width~~ thickness of the second ribs of the extruder screw, wherein a sum of cross-sections of the flow channels shift toward the sleeve and then toward the extruder screw when viewed in a direction of extrusion, and wherein a width of the gap is approximately half a height of each said first and second ribs and, wherein the heights of said first and second ribs continuously

change throughout the transfer region, whereas a sum of the heights remains constant.

12. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said ridges of said first ribs of said extruder sleeve respectively have a width of at least one half of said width of said flow channels of said extruder sleeve.

13. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said ridges of said first ribs of said extruder sleeve respectively have a width of approximately 80 to 100% of said width of said flow channels of said extruder sleeve.

14. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap corresponds to approximately one percent of the diameter of said extruder screw.

15. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap has a width that corresponds to at least one of: at least two percent of the diameter of the extruder screw and at least 15% of the sum of heights of said first and second ribs.

16. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein each of said ridges of said extruder sleeve and said extruder screw is provided with an incline in which said gap is increased to at least 3% of the diameter of the extruder screw, and wherein a normal of said ridges is inclined relative to a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

17. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 16, wherein said gap is increased to more than 5% of the diameter of said extruder screw.

18. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 16, wherein an incline of said ridge of said first ribs of said extruder sleeve is a portion of the width of

said ridge.

19. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein said incline is slightly more than one half of the width of said ridge.

20. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein said incline is a forward three fifths of the width of said ridge when viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

21. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein the ridges of said second ribs of said extruder screw are also provided with an incline.

22. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 21, wherein said incline of said ridges of said second ribs is provided at a forward edge as viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

23. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein the ridges of said ribs of at least one of said extruder screw and said extruder sleeve are provided with a rounded portion or a bevel at a forward edge as viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

24. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap is at least 0.5% in only a portion of said transfer region, and in a remainder of said transfer region is approximately 1% of the diameter of said extruder screw.

25. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap-24 between said extruder screw and said extruder sleeve is a shear gap in which material that is to be extruded is subjected to elastic flows or shear flows.

26. (currently amended) An extruder comprising:
an extruder sleeve provided with first ribs, wherein flow channels extend between said ribs, wherein said flow channels are U-shaped, wherein said U-

shaped flow channels improve streaming behavior of material in the extruder sleeve;

and

an extruder screw that runs in said extruder sleeve and is provided with second ribs, wherein flow channels extend between said second ribs, wherein said first and second ribs have respective ridges having a width that corresponds to approximately one third of a width of said flow channels of said extruder screw, wherein a gap of at least 1mm is provided between said extruder sleeve and said extruder screw, and wherein a ~~width~~ thickness of the first ribs of the extruder sleeve is increased approximately the same as to a ~~width~~ thickness of the second ribs of the extruder screw, wherein a sum of cross-sections of the flow channels shift toward the sleeve and then toward the extruder screw when viewed in a direction of extrusion, and wherein a width of the gap is approximately half a height of each said first and second ribs, wherein the heights of said first and second ribs continuously change throughout the transfer region, whereas a sum of the heights remains constant.

27. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said ridges of said ribs have a width that corresponds to approximately one half of the width of said flow channels of said extruder screw.

28. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said ridges of said ribs have a width that corresponds to approximately 80 to 120% of the width of said flow channels of said extruder screw.

29. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said gap is between 1.5 and 3mm.

30. (previously presented) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said gap between said extruder screw and said extruder sleeve is a shear gap in which

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material that is to be extruded is subjected to elastic flows or shear flows.